

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002372/25
to the Commission**

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(12 June 2025)

Subject: Serious negligence in the protection of minors in France

As reported in the press ⁽¹⁾, the state of affairs in France's juvenile detention centres in France is scandalous: girls are exposed to prostitution, boys to drug trafficking, and now Islamist networks, particularly those run by the Muslim Brotherhood, are infiltrating them:

Despite repeated warnings, this criminal neglect of children and teenagers, who are among the most vulnerable members of society, has been completely ignored by successive French governments.

Worse still, through their irresponsible migration policy, these governments have aggravated the security situation in juvenile detention centres, even going so far as to place children of Jihadists returning from Syria in these centres.

Furthermore, the French authorities do not monitor the training of professionals in secularism, which allows religious rules to be imposed in the canteens of these establishments.

1. Is the Commission aware of similar cases of negligence in the protection of minors in other Member States?
2. Are any European agencies, such as Europol or Eurojust, monitoring Islamist or criminal tendencies in homes for minors in Europe?

Submitted: 12.6.2025

Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(6 August 2025)

Detention issues are primarily a responsibility of Member States. All Member States have, however, committed themselves to respect the standards on this matter drafted by the Council of Europe, such as the 2006 European Prison Rules ⁽¹⁾.

Moreover, on 8 December 2022, the Commission adopted a recommendation on the procedural rights of suspects and accused in pre-trial detention and on material detention conditions ⁽²⁾.

Paragraphs 71 to 73 of the recommendation provide for guidance on special measures for children and young adults, while paragraphs 82 to 86 provide for guidance on specific measures to address radicalisation in prisons.

Where children are deprived of liberty during criminal proceedings, the rules set out in Directive (EU) 2016/800 on procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons ⁽³⁾ apply, which require Member States to ensure that children are deprived of liberty only as a measure of last resort, that they are held separately from adults and that children receive special treatment that is guided by their best interests.

In relation to applicants for international protection, the Pact on Migration and Asylum ⁽⁴⁾ includes new guarantees. Children as a rule should be detained only as a last resort, the best interests of the child should be a primary consideration for Member States also in relation to this subject.

¹ <https://www.lefigaro.fr/vox/politique/les-islamistes-ont-infiltre-les-foyers-pour-mineurs-et-les-associations-de-protection-de-l-enfance-20250601>

⁽¹⁾ <https://rm.coe.int/european-prison-rules-978-92-871-5982-3/16806ab9ae>.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_7570. The Commission is currently drafting a report on the implementation of the recommendation, which is due to be published by the end of the year.

⁽³⁾ See in particular Articles 10, 11 and 12 thereof, available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32016L0800>.

⁽⁴⁾ See in particular the Reception Conditions Directive Article 13, available at Official Journal L series daily view — EUR-Lex.